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courses offered in Groups 2 or 3, and other special arrangements to meet particular aptitudes will be authorized by the committee on industrial hygiene.

In view of the war conditions alterations in the above plans may become necessary. For information apply to Dr. C. K. Drinker, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass.

#### THE MEXICAN AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

PROFESSOR WILLIAM E. RITTER, scientific director of the Scripps Institute for Biological Research, has under the date of June 29, addressed the following letter to Dr. H. M. Smith, commissioner of fisheries:

It gives me great pleasure to report that the official and professional commission of Mexico headed by Ing. Pastor Rouaix, Secretary of Agriculture and Development, concerning which we were advised some time ago by acting Commissioner Moore, has recently visited San Diego and vicinity and the Scripps Institution. The party came to this place after having made an extensive tour of Lower California. It now goes northward to Los Angeles and San Francisco, then through the Rocky Mountain and North Mississippi valley states to Chicago and Washington. Since, as you are aware, the maritime industries of Mexico are under the jurisdiction of Secretary Rouaix the party were rather specially interested in the Scripps Institution because of its oceanographic and marine biological undertakings, and its consequent close identification with the fisheries and kelp industries of this region.

In addition to a brief inspection of the "plant" of the institution the party was entertained at a luncheon in the Institution Commons, representatives of the San Diego and La Jolla Chambers of Commerce and the San Diego Canners being also guests.

The occasion was utilized for emphasizing the part which science is playing and in a larger measure may, and ought to, play not only in solving strictly technical problems common to the two countries, but in composing international questions of a racial, economic and political character.

Members of the commission, as well as guests from the neighborhood, entered heartily into the purpose of the visit as thus viewed, all expressing the hope that more intimate relations between the two countries through agencies of this sort may exist in the future than have existed in the past.

Ing. Jose Duvallon, director of agriculture, was specially explicit in setting forth views and possibilities to this effect. There is so much of promise in efforts of this kind that it should receive wide interest and encouragement. The southwestern states of our nation, including Texas and California, are naturally more directly concerned than other portions of the country, southern California being the most vitally interested of all because of the Colorado River and the Imperial area, and the rapidly growing maritime industries.

There can be no doubt that I express the sentiment of all those, Mexicans and Americans alike, who met and exchanged views and courtesies while the commission was in this vicinity, that the government of the United States, either national or state, or both ought in the near future to take steps to reciprocate and extend the good work started by Mexico through this highly able commission.

I am sending a statement similar to this in import to President Benj. Ide Wheeler, of the University of California, and to Dean T. F. Hunt, of the college of agriculture of the university, and trust the sentiment here voiced will reach the Secretary of Agriculture at Washington, the Honorable David F. Huston.

#### ORGANIZATION OF CHICAGO TECHNICAL SOCIETIES FOR WAR WORK

REPRESENTING an effort to cooperate effectively and vigorously for war work, an important joint-war committee has been formed by representatives of technical societies centered in Chicago. The movement was started by the military committee of the Western Society of Engineers, and at the invitation of that committee several meetings have been held at the Chicago Engineers' Club. As a result the "War Committee, Technical Societies of Chicago," to quote the official name, was organized June 4, 1918.

The purpose of this organization is "to enable the technical societies of the Chicago zone to call into play the efforts of the members of the various societies herein represented as occasion may arise and to coordinate their activities in the most effectual manner to help win the war." It is not proposed to attempt any novel "stunts," but rather to place at the disposal of the United States government and other authorized agencies the combined